

BAIT FAMINE.

Fancy Prices Paid for This Necessary Article.

IT IS SCARCE AT ANY PRICE.

One Boston Vessel is Using Cold Storage Mackerel.

Salt fish and mackerel are scarce articles in the fish market, but they are not half as scarce as is bait among the fishing fleet. Bait of any kind is held at unheard of figures and frozen herring cannot be obtained at any price, for the simple reason that there are none for sale, those who have lots in cold storage holding them for their own use.

So just at present bait is the great problem with the fishermen and where to get it is indeed a puzzle.

Some vessels are going out with a short supply, and one haddock eagerly embraced the opportunity of getting a small supply of herring from a Georgesman, which had been out six weeks and had them left over.

The greatest expedient of all was that resorted to at Boston, where one captain got wind of where a lot of small mackerel were in cold storage and eagerly bought up the whole lot at four cents per pound.

Another Boston haddock's bait bill alone amounted to \$480, a most unheard-of figure.

This scarcity of bait is also bothering the Grand Bank fleet. Some of these vessels have some salt squid on hand and some frozen herring bought and stored. These will be all right, but some others less fortunate will have to hunt, and there is poor prospect of finding any, as Nova Scotia ports have already been scoured in vain and there is no prospect of bait at Newfoundland or the Magdalens before April 20. All in all the bait question is a most serious one.

Herring Notes.

The St. John's, N. F., Herald says that from Black River to Sound Island, Placentia Bay, herring of large size struck in in myriads on the shore Feb. 14 and the fishermen made large hauls. The weather was too mild for freezing, but all were eagerly awaiting a chance so that freezing could begin, as 30 American catchers were then in the Bay paying from \$4 to \$5 per barrel, taking them at their own risk, while many were prepared to use their own scaffolds for freezing the fish. If frosty weather ensues the people will reap a rich harvest.

Evidently the frost did not come, as the fleet has sailed for home with but few herring.

Sch. Senator Salisbury of this port, Black River, N. F., for home, put into Halifax for shelter on Saturday and cleared.

The Provincetown netters are still catching herring, although seldom have the fish been caught in nets as late as the present winter. The shore boats having nets in the water have nearly all succeeded in getting a good supply of bait for each day's fishing.

Frozen herring are bringing five cents per pound at New York.

LOADED DOWN.

Sch. Gossip Is Almost Full of Fresh Fish.

Capt. Antone Courant Calls Them 170,000 Pounds.

Sch. Gossip, Capt. Antone Courant, arrived from the Peak this forenoon with a monster fare of 170,000 pounds of fresh fish, and 145,000 pounds of them codfish, is what Capt. Courant calls them, and if he has gauged them right, this fare will almost equal the world's record-breaking fare which Capt. Courant landed last year in sch. Lucinda I. Lowell, when he arrived from the Peak March 30 with 173,000 pounds of fresh fish.

The Gossip is a new vessel, and Capt. Courant's estimate of his great fare may be low. If so, he may break the record for the largest fresh fish fare ever landed by a fishing schooner, which he now holds himself.

Good Stocks.

Sch. Miranda, Capt. James McShara, stocked \$2700 on her recent halibut trip.

Sch. Richard Wainwright, Capt. Thaddeus Morgan, stocked \$8300 on the frozen herring cargo, which she took out at New York.

March 5th 1901.

GLOUCESTER ARRIVALS.

Arrived March 5: Schs.

Jennie B Hodgdon, Georges, 75,000 lbs mixed fish.

Niagara, Grand Banks, 20,000 lbs halibut.

Rob Roy, via Boston,

Pythian, do.

Florence, do.

Ralph Russell, do.

Geo E Lane, Georges, 20,000 lbs cod.

HIGH LINER.

Sch. Volant Led Local Haddockers Last Year.

Capt. Miles Somers of sch. Volant claims the honor for his vessel of being the high line off shore haddock from this port for the year 1900, with a stock of \$27,790.

This is a fine stock, and is the result of hard work and good judgment. Mr. Somers is a well known commander, who is very regular in arriving with good fares and is very capable. He has been going skipper for seven years and has never yet made a broken trip, which speaks well for his steadiness. His many friends wish him a continuation of his good fortune.

The Lobster Law.

Boston, March 5.—The committee on fisheries and game have reported inexpedient to legislate on the bill, providing for the legal length of the lobster at nine instead of 10 1-2 inches.

Wednesday March 6th

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Lawrence A. Munroe, Placentia Bay, N. F., 300 bbls. frozen herring.
Sch. Clara M. Littlefield, shore.
Sch. John M. Keen, shore.
Sch. Mary Cabral, shore.
Sch. Joseph Warren, shore.
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, shore.
Sch. Richard Lester, shore.
Sch. Maud S., shore.
Sch. Evelyn L. Smith, shore.
Sch. Massasoit, shore.

To-day's Market.

Board of Trade prices: large headline Georges cod, \$3 3-4 per cwt., medium do., \$2 1-2; large trawl Georges, \$3 1-2, medium do., \$2 3-8; headline cod from deck caught east of Cape Sable, \$3 1-2; medium do., \$2 3-8; large trawl bank cod, \$2.75; medium do., \$2.25 large dory headline cod, \$2 7-8, medium do., \$2 3-8.

Splitting prices, large cod, \$2.00; medium do., \$1.25; snapper do., 40 cts.; cusk, \$1.25; snapper do., 40 cts.; haddock, 75 cts.; hake, 95 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.

Bank halibut 8 cents per lb. for white and 6 cents for gray.

Frozen herring, 5 cts. per lb.

Boston.

March 6—Ar., sch. Illinois, 40,000 haddock, 12,000 cod.

Sch. Tecumseh, 5000 cod.

Sch. Bertha M. Miller, 400 haddock, 12,000 cod.

Sch. Georgie Willard, 5000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1500 hake.

Sch. Gladiator, 25,000 lbs. halibut.

Haddock \$3 to \$3.75, large cod \$4 to \$4.90, market cod \$3 to \$4.25.

Herring Notes.

Sch. Senator Gardner cleared from Philadelphia for home on Tuesday.

Sch. Joseph Rowe for this port, cleared from Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Frozen Herring Bring Five Cents Per Pound.

Half a Cargo Sells in About an Hour.

Sch. Senator Saulsbury arrived from Placentia Bay, N. F., on Tuesday afternoon with about 300 barrels of frozen herring. The fare was immediately put upon the market, and in a very short space of time every herring had been taken up at five cents a pound. All the cargo will go for bait, the buyers at this high figure being fishing firms and masters of fishing vessels.

This is the highest price paid for frozen herring for many years and seldom if ever has a higher price been paid for them to use for bait.

When the frozen herring situation, with the scarcity of fish almost at the start, began to be realized, a prominent business man made the prediction that frozen herring would sell for five cents a pound before the season closed. His prediction was taken with smiles and shakes of the head, but time has proved that his prediction was right.

During Tuesday evening the schooner Lawrence A. Munroe, arrived from Placentia Bay, N. F., with 300 barrels of frozen herring. These were eagerly sought and all were quickly taken up at five cents per pound and this forenoon all the cargo had been engaged.